Title: Need to ensure availability of potable water to the people residing along the bank of Palar river in Vellore Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.-Laid

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM (VELLORE) : For many years, Palar river is suplying water to lakhs of people those who were living near the banks of the river. In addition to that water for irrigation purposes is also supplied in the area from this source.

There are number of tanneries on the bank of Palar river from Vaniyambadi to Wallafa. Those tanneries have not been treating and disposing of its effluents as per the norms laid down by the Pollution Control Board. The effluents of tanneries have contaminated the sub-soil water in that area. Vaniyambadi, Ambur, Madhanoor Pallikonda, Vellore, Visharan, Arcot, Ranipet and Wallafa people are drinking the salted and contaminated water. Due to this they are also affected by the T.B., cancer and skin diseases etc. Acres of land are also affected by it.

There is no safe potable drinking water in that area. Some organisations filed case in the High Court and Supreme Court and also got rulings on it. Even then the situation is continuing. The Government has to order the Pollution Control Board to watch the tanneries in Tamil Nadu whether they are treating the effluents properly and to allow them to charge them according to norms laid down by the Board.